



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Carson National Forest

State Highway 115, Building 358
CanjilonNM87515
575-684-2489/575-684-2486

File Code: 1950; 2700
Date: October 18, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service is seeking your input on a proposed project to increase the width of a utility right-of-way for the Northern Rio Arriba Electric Cooperative (NORA). The proposed action would require the Forest Service to re-issue a new Special Use Permit to NORA. Based on our assessment, we intend to categorically exclude the proposed project under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(2): Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility lines in a designated corridor.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose and need for the proposed action are to replace outdated utility infrastructure that would provide more stable and reliable electrical services to the rural communities in the surrounding area. The project would parallel the existing 69 kV transmission line.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to increase the right-of-way from 25 foot from centerline to 40 feet from the centerline of the existing utility infrastructure. This would allow for the replacement of approximately 10.5 miles of 69 kilovolt (kV), overhead electrical lines, and select portions of under-built 14.4/24.9 kV two-phase and single-phase transmission and distribution lines. The project would parallel the existing 69 kV transmission line. The work will require the use of heavy equipment to extend the right-of-way and clear the area of trees that could cause a threat to the line. It will also require the use of heavy equipment to install the new poles required to support the upgraded lines as well as to run the lines.

Project Location

The project would occur on the Canjilon Ranger District within the current existing right-of-way, which parallels U.S. Highway 84 from Cebolla to Ghost Ranch. The specific right-of-way exists within T.24N., R.4E., 23 Sections 10, 9, 4 and T.25N., R.4E., 23 Sections 3, 28, 27, 22, 15, 14, 11, 1 and T.26N., R.4E., 23 Sections 25, 4, 13, 12, 1 and T.27N., R.4E., 23 Section 35.

How to Comment

Written comments must be submitted to Chris Griffith, Deputy District Ranger, Canjilon Ranger District at P. O. Box 469, Canjilon, NM 87515 or via fax at: (575) 684-2486.

Comments may also be submitted electronically to: comments-southwestern-carson-canjilon@usda.gov with the subject title "*NORA 69 KV Line Upgrade and Permit Renewal*"

Comments must be in: Adobe (.pdf), MS-Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html). Please include "Valencia Tank." in the subject line.

It is important that comments are provided at such times and in such a manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of a decision. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the scoping period November 18, 2021 and should clearly articulate the commenter's concerns and contentions or support for the proposed action.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the name and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not receive subsequent project information.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) allows such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven (7) days.

Questions?

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ricardo Leon, Recreation and Lands Staff, at (575) 758-8678 or via email at ricardo.leon@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Christopher Griffith
Deputy District Ranger

